

Dr. Stokes, I am urging you to begin efforts to completely replace lethal dose testing with non-animal, in vitro testing methods.

Thank you,
Lisa S. Jenkins

> After years of protest from animal activists, the LD50 Test (in which
> animals are force fed chemicals to estimate the dose needed to kill 50% of
> them) is slowly being phased out internationally and is being replaced
> with tests that use fewer animals [or none at all]. A recent workshop held
> by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), a
> government agency that researches the health effects of environmental
> hazards, addressed the feasibility of going one step further and replacing
> the animal tests completely with in-vitro cell culture tests. Scientists
> at the NIEHS workshop have agreed to a partial implementation of in vitro
> testing, to set a "starting dose" for the lethal poisoning tests, which
> would have the effect of further reducing the number of animals in the
> tests. The NIEHS is inviting the public to comment on the findings of
> these scientists and the use of in-vitro cell cultures as a replacement
> for lethal animal tests.